SUMMARY OF THE 2003 YAKUTAT AREA

COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERIES

By

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SECTION 4

SUMMARY OF THE 2003 SOUTHEAST ALASKA/YAKUTAT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERIES

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ABSTRACT

The 2003 Yakutat set gillnet fishery produced a cumulative harvest of 281,500 salmon; this was 36% below the 1993-2002 average. The total harvest included 3,800 chinook, 154,400 sockeye, 74,300 coho, 48,400 pink, and 540 chum salmon. The salmon harvest was worth an approximate exvessel value of $1,135,000 to 104 active permit holders. The number of active permits was 22% below the recent 10-year average and comprised 58% of the total setnet permits in Yakutat. The 2003 sockeye salmon harvest of 154,400 was only 2.5% below the recent 10-year average. Sockeye salmon harvest was above average in the Situk-Ahrnklin and Alsek Rivers, and below average in all other Yakutat systems. The Situk-Ahrnklin, with a harvest of 84,250; the Alsek River, with a harvest of 39,750; and Yakutat Bay, with a harvest of 14,350, together produced 90% of the area sockeye salmon harvest. The area's total coho salmon harvest of 74,300 was 69% below the recent 10-year average. The Situk-Ahrnklin, with a harvest of 72,200 coho, produced 97% of the area coho salmon harvest. The area's chinook salmon harvest of 3,850 slightly exceeded the recent 10-year average of 3,800. The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet (2,300), the Alsek River (940), and the Akwe River (300), were the top chinook salmon producers. The pink salmon harvest of 48,400 fish was 13% above the recent 10-year average, whereas the chum salmon harvest of 540 was 69% below average. The Situk-Ahrnklin fishery produced most of the pink salmon, which were incidental to the sockeye salmon harvest.

INTRODUCTION

The Yakutat set gillnet fisheries (Figure 4.1) are divided into two fishing districts; the Yakutat District, which extends from Cape Fairweather to Icy Cape, and the Yakataga District, which extends from Icy Cape to Cape Suckling. Yakutat District set gillnet fisheries primarily target sockeye and coho salmon although all five species of salmon are harvested. The Yakataga District fisheries target coho salmon.

While the bulk of the Yakutat salmon harvest is usually reported from four or five major fisheries (the Alsek, Situk-Ahrnklin, and Tsiu River, and Yakutat Bay), upwards of 25 different areas are open to commercial fishing each year. With few exceptions, set gillnetting is confined to the intertidal area inside the mouths of the various rivers and streams, and to the ocean waters immediately adjacent to each. Due to the terminal nature of these fisheries the department has been able to develop escapement goals for most of the major and several of the minor fisheries (Table 4.1).

Escapement counts performed inseason become the driving force in establishing openings, closures, and fishing times for each fishery. These fisheries are managed to ensure that escapement goals are met. In the case of glacial systems, it is often either difficult to see escapement, or escapement does not become visible until long after the fishery has occurred. Fisheries performance figures, in the form of catch per unit of effort, CPUE, are compared with historical data to estimate run strength for management purposes. Two ocean fisheries, the Manby Shore and the Yakutat Bay fishery, occur within Yakutat Bay. Historical stock analysis of these fisheries indicates that the majority of sockeye salmon harvested, especially during the first six or seven weeks of the season are of Situk-Ahrnklin origin. These fisheries are managed in accordance with Situk-Ahrnklin escapement goals.

Yakutat Area Set Gillnet - 2003

The Yakutat set gillnet fishery produced a cumulative harvest of 281,500 salmon. This was 36% below the recent 10-year average (Tables 4.2 and 4.3), and was the lowest harvest in the past ten years. Of the 179 Yakutat set gillnet permits, 104 were active this season; this was 22% below the recent 10-year average (Table 4.3). The average Yakutat permit holder earned $10,900 for the 2003 season (Table 4.4); this was 29% below the 10-year average. Sockeye salmon harvests were slightly below the ten-year average and comprised 55% of the 2003 harvest. The sockeye salmon harvest on the Situk-Ahrnklin, the area's top sockeye salmon producer, was the highest in five years, while the harvest on the Alsek River was the fourth highest on record. The coho harvest was 69% below the recent 10-year average, but the harvest was not necessarily an indicator of overall coho salmon run strength. Market conditions dictated that virtually all of the effort for coho salmon was limited to the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet, with that fishery accounting for 97% of the harvest. Almost all of the remote systems, although open to fishing, were not fished for coho salmon in 2003. Coho salmon accounted for 26% of the total Yakutat area salmon harvest. The

return of pink salmon to the Situk River was again very strong, and the pink salmon harvest was 13% above average. The chum salmon harvest was 69% below the recent average. The chinook salmon harvest of 3,850 was just slightly above the recent average. The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan was revised during the most recent (2003) Board of Fish (BOF) meetings to clarify guidelines for the department under various chinook salmon escapement scenarios. However, the last scenario [5AAC 30.365 (b) (5)] omitted any guidelines to manage the commercial fishery should projected chinook escapement exceed 1,050 fish. Such a projection was made on June 19. On July 2, with the clear intent of the management plan in mind, the department issued an emergency order providing set gillnetters opportunity to harvest chinook salmon with "king gear" beyond the time restrictions of the weekly sockeye fishery. The omission of these guidelines should be addressed during the next BOF cycle.

Sockeye Salmon

The sockeye salmon harvest of 154,450 was 2.5% below the recent 10-year average. The 2003 harvest of 84,250 Situk-Ahrnklin sockeye was 58% above the recent 5-year average of 53,400, and comprised 55% of the area's sockeye salmon harvest. The Situk River weir count of 89,700 sockeye salmon exceeded the upper end of the escapement goal range of 30,000 to 70,000. The Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) for the East Alsek River (East River) was revised in June 2003 and when escapement goals were met the river was opened for the taking of sockeye salmon. This marked the first directed fishery for sockeye salmon in the East River since 1997.

The Situk and Alsek Rivers recorded above average sockeye salmon harvests. The Alsek harvest of 39,750 was 197% above average and the fourth highest harvest on record (Table 4.6). Yakutat Bay yielded another 14,350 sockeye salmon, which was 43% below the recent average, but near the long-term average. The Akwe River harvest of 8,500 sockeye salmon was 12% below the recent average, but that average contains two of the biggest years on record for the Akwe River, and the 2003 harvest was well above the long-term average for that system. The Manby Shore and Dangerous River fisheries contributed small amounts of sockeye salmon to the harvest for the area.

Coho Salmon

While market conditions certainly affected the sockeye fishery, nowhere were those conditions more evident than in the coho salmon fishery. Since it has become uneconomical to fly fish from remote locations, the effort has been reduced to fisheries with road access to the community of Yakutat where buyers offer the best price. None of the waters west of Yakutat Bay were fished for coho salmon in 2003, including the Tsiu River. The Tsiu River is normally second only to the Situk-Ahrnklin in terms of coho production, and exceeded Situk-Ahrnklin coho salmon production for a number of years. This was the second year in a row that there has been no commercial fishery on the Tsiu River. The Akwe, Dangerous, and East Rivers, east of Yakutat, were not fished for coho salmon this season. The Italio systems and the Alsek River contributed minor coho salmon harvests, primarily from fishermen with their own airplanes. All of these systems were open for

extended periods of time, but the cost of transporting fish from those areas would have been more than the price paid to the fisherman.

Coho salmon returns to Yakutat have been strong in the last 10-12 years, and of the six largest years on record, the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 6th highest have been recorded since 1992. The 2003 coho salmon harvest of 74,300 fish was 69% below the recent 10-year average of 239,100 fish. The peak coho salmon producer was the Situk-Ahrnklin, which produced 72,200 fish. The Situk-Ahrnklin fishery accounted for 97% of the Yakutat area harvest. Again, market conditions and subsequent low coho prices affected effort levels all over the area, and coho salmon escapement to most systems was very strong. All streams from Cape Yakataga to a point one-half-mile west of the Yahtse River, including Jetty Creek and Big River, remained closed to commercial fishing in 2003.

Chinook Salmon

The chinook salmon harvest of 3,850 fish was just slightly above the recent 10-year average of 3,800 fish. Projections for the Situk River indicated that chinook salmon escapement would exceed the upper end of the escapement goal range of 450 to 1,050 fish. In accordance with the chinook management plan [5 ACC 30.365], various measures were taken in both the commercial and sport fisheries to increase chinook salmon harvest. A total of 2,350 chinook salmon were taken in the Situk-Ahrnklin fishery, which was 25% above the 5-year average. The Alsek River harvest of 940 chinook salmon was 58% above the 5-year average of 600. More than 90% of these fish were harvested during the first three weeks of the season

After the establishment of an escapement goal using spawner recruit data, chinook salmon returns from the Situk River have been much greater than prior to the signing of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. For the Situk River the base harvest (inriver set gill net fishery plus Situk inriver sport fishery, totaling 2,200) has been included within the Southeast Alaska chinook all-gear Treaty harvest target. Chinook salmon harvests in excess of this base harvest have been excluded from the all-gear Treaty annual harvest target.

Pink Salmon

The pink salmon harvest of 48,400 fish was 13% below the recent 10-year average. Pink salmon prices were a nickel per pound this season, which relegated this species to incidental harvest. The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery accounted for 90% of the Yakutat area harvest, while Yakutat Bay yielded nearly all of the remainder. The Yakutat Bay harvest of 4,850 pink salmon was 15% below the 5-year average. Pink salmon harvested in Yakutat Bay are predominantly of Situk River and Humpback Creek origin.

Chum Salmon

Low prices for chum salmon in recent years have also made them a non-target salmon and the harvest is entirely incidental. The East River had been the only major producer of chum in the Yakutat area, however the chum salmon run in the East River has been in decline during the past decade, probably due to changes in habitat. Since the East River has been closed to commercial fishing for three consecutive seasons prior to the 2002 coho season, reliable indices of East River chum salmon abundance are not available. The area-wide harvest of 540 chum salmon was 69% below the recent 10-year average. The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery accounted for 450 of these fish, and the remainder was harvested in Yakutat Bay and the East River. The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet harvest was 97% above average.

Yakutat District

Alsek River

Alsek River salmon management is conducted in cooperation with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) under the auspices of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. A total of 15 permit holders harvested 940 chinook, 39,750 sockeye, and 50 coho salmon. No pink or chum salmon were harvested (Table 4.6). The Alsek River sockeye salmon harvest was 197% above the recent five-year average, and was the highest harvest since 1979. The Alsek was opened to commercial fishing during statistical week 23, the first Monday in June. Adjustments to weekly fishing periods during the sockeye salmon season relied heavily on fishery performance data; the decision to extend any given period was generally based on CPUE data gathered during that period. Parent-year escapement information was also considered when determining the weekly fishing periods. Weekly fishing periods were extended to three days for most of the sockeye season as fishery performance continued to indicate the strength of the sockeye salmon return. The Klukshu River is an important tributary in the upper Alsek River drainage in Canada. The Klukshu River escapement count (weir count minus harvest in the interceptive fisheries above the weir) of 32,100 sockeye salmon exceeded the upper end of the recommended escapement goal range of 7,500 to 15,000, and was the highest count on record (Table 4.7). Aerial escapement surveys of sockeye salmon are typically conducted on the Tanis River, Cabin, and Basin Creeks. Due to aircraft availability problems, these surveys were flown too late in the season, and were of little use for inseason management. An estimated 900 sockeye salmon were observed in the Tanis River, while Basin Creek and Cabin Creek were not flown in 2003.

The chinook salmon harvest of 940 was 58% above the recent 5-year average of 600 fish. Approximately 90% of these fish were taken during the first three weeks of the season. The Klukshu weir escapement of 1,670 chinook salmon was within the recommended escapement goal range of 1,100 to 2,300.

Only 50 coho salmon were harvested, compared to the recent 5-year average catch of 5,600. The harvest was the lowest since 1944, a year in which the Alsek was not fished after the middle of

August. Effort was minimal during the last two weeks of August and the first week of September, and the river was open but not fished during the last five weeks of the season. Poor weather during the fall makes it very difficult to obtain accurate escapement counts in local tributaries. The Klukshu weir escapement of 3,700 coho salmon was 26% above the recent 10-year average. The weir is usually removed prior to the completion of the coho salmon return and thus does not include fish that migrate after mid-October.

East River

It has become clear, there has been a significant decline in productivity in the East River beginning some time in the early 1990's and continuing to the present day. With this decline in mind, the department revised the sockeye salmon BEG in June of this year. The sockeye salmon escapement goal of 26,000 to 57,000 fish was lowered to 13,000 to 26,000 fish. The river remained closed to commercial fishing through the end of July. An aerial survey conducted on August 1 revealed 16,000 sockeye in the upper river, and on August 4, the East River was opened to commercial fishing for sockeye salmon for the first time in five years. A total of eight permits harvested 2,600 sockeye, 1 coho, and 20 chum salmon (Table 4.8). All the effort on the East River occurred during the first two weeks of August, after which the river remained open, but was not fished due to market conditions. Weekly fishing periods remained at three days through the end of the season on October 23. The harvest for all species was well below historical levels, as was to be expected. The peak aerial survey count of 31,000 sockeye salmon was recorded on August 22. The river was not surveyed for coho salmon this season due to inclement weather and the unavailability of airplanes. Historical East River sockeye salmon return-per-spawner data is presented in Table 4.9.

Akwe River

The Akwe River sockeye salmon harvest of 8,500 fish was 12% below the average of recent years (Table 4.10). That average contains two of the largest harvests on record for the Akwe, and this season's harvest was approximately double the long-term historical average. The river was not fished during coho salmon season for economic reasons. A total of 8 permits fished for sockeye salmon. Aerial surveys of the Akwe River are of little value in determining escapement due to the turbidity of the river. Weekly fishing times are announced at 1.5 days and then adjusted inseason according to fishery performance.

Markers were placed on the Akwe River one-half mile upstream of the mean low tide level to reduce the problem of fishing mixed stocks in the Italio and Akwe confluence. Some milling of all species may occur, and it is probable that some of the New Italio River stocks are intercepted in the Akwe River fishery.

Italio Rivers

Three different rivers comprise the Italio River system: the Old, Middle, and New Italio Rivers. The Old Italio River has always been a separate river flowing into the Gulf of Alaska just east of the mouth of the Dangerous River. Geological changes in the mid-80s changed the Italio River and created two distinct rivers where only one had existed before. The main river is now called the New Italio, and the original river channel is the Middle Italio. All three systems support coho populations, and the New Italio River also has a small run of sockeye salmon. Sockeye escapement counts remained below average, and the New Italio River was not open during the sockeye salmon season. With indications of a decline in productivity within the New Italio the BEG of 2,500 to 7,000 sockeye salmon was dropped this year. The department recommended not establishing a formal goal until the systems productivity stabilizes. The New Italio remained closed through the end of the season. Coho escapement goals were met for both the Old and Middle Italio Rivers, and both systems remained opened to commercial fishing for five days a week for most of the coho salmon season. Two permits fished the Middle Italio for two days, while the Old Italio was not fished in 2003. Peak aerial survey counts of 1,600 coho salmon in the Old Italio River and 2,100 in the Middle Italio River were recorded on September 16.

Dangerous River

The Dangerous River was opened to commercial fishing on June 9. Fewer than three permits fished the river, and all harvest figures are confidential. The Dangerous River was not fished for coho salmon this year (Table 4.11). Escapement surveys of the Dangerous River are ineffective due to the glacially occluded water. Weekly fishing times are announced at 2.5 days and then adjusted in accordance with fishery performance.

Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet

The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery recorded above average harvests of chinook, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon and a below average harvest of coho salmon during the 2003 season (Table 4.12). The Situk-Ahrnklin fishery generated 69% of the Yakutat area set gillnet income (Table 4.13 and 4.14). The total value of $782,100 was 18% below average, but was the highest since 1999. The harvest of 84,200 sockeye salmon was 58% above the recent average and the highest harvest since 1996. Situk-Ahrnklin sockeye accounted for 55% of the area sockeye salmon harvest. The coho harvest of 72,200 was 43% below average, but it accounted for 97% of the area's total coho salmon harvest. The pink salmon return to the Situk was again quite strong, and the harvest of 43,600 was 10% above average.

The Situk River weir was installed in the lower river for the sixteenth consecutive year and used for inseason management of the sockeye and chinook salmon fisheries (Table 4.15). This was the ninth year that the resistance board or “floating” weir was used. The weir was maintained without problems through the end of the sockeye salmon season, and was removed on August 8. Heavy

rains and subsequent flooding are typical of the fall coho season and the weir is removed prior to the coho salmon run.

The Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet fishery opened initially on June 16. The sockeye salmon run built slowly through the end of June with weekly fishing times remaining at the normal 2.5 days per week. On July 3 escapement through the Situk weir totaled 30,000 sockeye salmon, right at the bottom end of the escapement goal range of 30,000–70,000 fish. With the river closed to fishing over the holiday weekend, sockeye salmon escapement climbed dramatically. Over 15,000 sockeye salmon went through the weir from July 4 through July 7, bringing escapement levels to mid-range of the BEG. Sockeye salmon fishing time was extended until further notice, and the Inlet remained open continuously through August 7 before switching to coho salmon management. A total of 89,700 sockeye passed through the weir, and some sockeye salmon continued to be harvested in the commercial fishery after the weir was removed. Final escapement was probably over 90,000 fish. Approximately 3,000 sockeye salmon were harvested in the sport fishery above the weir, leaving effective escapement at about 87,000.

A comprehensive management plan for Situk River chinook salmon has been in effect by regulation [3 ACC 30.365] since 1991. This plan was further revised during the January 2003 BOF meetings to clarify directions to the department on chinook salmon management strategies. The plan mandates several chinook salmon conservation measures based on an ascending scale of projected escapement through the Situk Weir. The chinook salmon BEG has been established at 730 large (three ocean and older) fish, with a range of 450-1,050 fish. A total of five scenarios address management strategies. Scenarios (1), (2), and (3) address projections of low abundance, or fewer than 730 fish. Scenario (4) addresses a projection of escapement that falls within the BEG range. Under each of the first four scenarios the department has been given specific guidelines to manage the sport, set gillnet, and troll fisheries.

The final scenario, (5), addresses escapement projections of greater than 1,050 chinook salmon. The intent of the plan is quite clear, “if the projected inriver run of king salmon to the Situk River weir is greater than 1,050 three ocean age and older fish the department shall manage the commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries as necessary to harvest large king salmon in excess of the biological escapement goal.” And yet beyond the inference that the set gillnet fishery will be managed based on sockeye salmon run strength the plan provides no further direction on the implementation of management measures concerning the set gillnet fishery. The only management options specifically discussed involve the sport fishery. Both user groups participate in conservation measures as outlined in the low abundance scenarios of the plan, but set gillnetters were inadvertently excluded from harvest opportunities as outlined in the high abundance scenario without adjustments to time and gear.

On June 19, the department projected the chinook salmon escapement would exceed 1,050 large fish. Sport Fish Division immediately implemented the provisions outlined for them in the management plan. On July 2, realizing that the set gillnet fishery could also be used to slow chinook salmon escapement, the department issued an emergency order and a news release allowing the use of “king gear” in addition to sockeye gear when the period targeting sockeye was open, and allowing the use of “king gear’ until further notice when the directed fishery for sockeye

salmon was closed. The news release read, in part, “during periods open for the directed taking of sockeye salmon, two nets, each not to exceed 20 fathoms, will be allowed. One of the nets must have a mesh size not less than seven and one-half or greater than eight inches. During periods not open for the directed taking of sockeye salmon, only one net with a mesh size of no less than seven and one-half or greater than eight inches may be used. Sockeye salmon caught incidentally during the directed fishery for chinook salmon may be retained and sold.”

The use of “king gear” was implemented at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 2. The directed fishery for sockeye salmon closed for the week at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 3, with the use of “king gear” allowed until further notice. Department staff spent the morning of Saturday, July 5 in the Inlet, and found only one permit holder fishing the entire area with the larger mesh net. He stated he had been the only one fishing since the Thursday sockeye salmon closure, and he thought that only he and perhaps one or two others were in possession of “king gear.” He further stated that on the current tide, he had caught “15 or 16” large chinook, and only “4 or 5” sockeye salmon, and that he had seen a number of other smaller fish make it through the net. (Loren Clark, personal communication). It is difficult to gauge the effectiveness of the larger mesh net as a management tool on the basis of one interview. The directed fishery for sockeye salmon was extended until further notice during the second week of July, and the use of two nets, one with the larger mesh, remained in effect through the end of the sockeye salmon season. A total of 2,350 chinook salmon were harvested, and this was 25% above the recent average. A total of 2,600 large chinook salmon passed through the Situk weir.

The harvest of 72,200 coho salmon was 43% below the recent 5-year average of 126,600. The eleven-year period from 1992-2002 has been the most productive in the history of the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet coho fishery, with nine of the eleven years recording a harvest in excess of 100,000 coho salmon. Six of those eleven years recorded harvests in excess of 150,000 fish. This year’s harvest seems to indicate somewhat of a drop in production, but only by way of comparison. During the 32-year period, 1960-1991 the average Situk/Ahrnklin coho salmon harvest was 30,000, and this year’s total of 72,200 would have been second only to the 89,000 harvested in 1991 during that period of time. A peak count of 59 permits fished during the third week of September, and this was average for recent coho salmon seasons. A peak Situk River escapement survey count of 5,250 coho salmon was recorded on October 23. The escapement goal range for the Situk River is 3,300 to 9,800.

The pink salmon harvest of 43,600 fish was 10% above the recent 5-year average of 39,500. The peak of the pink salmon run occurs between the end of the sockeye season and the onset of the coho season, effort levels always diminish during this time, as fewer permits are willing to fish for pink salmon because of the comparatively low price. Over 375,000 pink salmon were counted through the Situk Weir, but the weir was removed on August 8, well before the end of the pink salmon run. This weir count exceeded the top end of the pink salmon escapement goal range. The chum salmon harvest of 450 was almost double the recent 5-year average harvest of 230.

Lost River

The shift of the Lost River in 1999 that resulted in the river changing from discharging directly into the Gulf of Alaska to discharging into the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary, precipitated implementation of 5AAC. 39.220 to protect Lost River stocks. Beginning in the 1999 season, regulatory markers have been placed that delineated areas that closed the Lost River to commercial fishing. This closure forced the displacement of some traditional fishing sites and many of these fishermen have elected to transfer their enterprises to either the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet or to Yakutat Bay.

In 2003, the Lost River was not opened during the sockeye salmon season. It was opened during the last three weeks of the coho season once coho salmon escapement goals had been met (Table 4.16). Small numbers of coho salmon were harvested during that open fishing period in the river, however it is assumed that Lost River salmon stocks are also harvested in the Situk-Ahrnklin fishery. The lower end of the Situk-Ahrnklin estuary appears highly mutable and the conservation measures enacted in 1999 - 2003 may be necessary in the future.

Weekly float surveys were conducted on Tawah Creek, the primary immigration route for salmon stocks of the Lost River system, throughout the summer and fall for sockeye and coho salmon. A peak count of 2,000 sockeye salmon (escapement goal range is 1,000 to 2,300) was observed on August 20. Coho salmon returns to the Lost River were strong and the peak escapement count of 6,400 recorded on October 1 is thought to be a minimum estimate as many fish disappear into areas that cannot be surveyed. The escapement goal range for coho salmon in the Lost River system is 2,000 to 6,500 fish.

Yakutat Bay

The Yakutat Bay fishery recorded harvests of 240 chinook, 14,400 sockeye, 580 coho, 4,850 pink, and 60 chum salmon in 2003 (Table 4.17). The sockeye salmon harvest of 14,400 fish was 43% below the recent 5-year average. That average contains two of the highest harvests on record for the Bay, and this year's harvest is only slightly below the long-term average. A total of 33 different permits fished Yakutat Bay in 2003, with a peak effort of 25 permits fished during the first week of the season. The southern half of Yakutat Bay opened on June 11, and fishing time corresponded with the Situk River openings for the duration of the fishing season. Chinook salmon are harvested incidentally to the sockeye fishery, and the harvest of 240 chinook salmon was 47% below the recent 5-year average.

Yakutat Bay has never been a major coho producer, perhaps due to the concentration of effort elsewhere during coho salmon season. The 2003 coho salmon harvest of 580 fish was 84% below the recent 5-year average. Effort was minimal in Yakutat Bay for coho salmon, and although Yakutat Bay remained opened with the rest of the area through October 23, it was not fished after the third week in September.

The Yakutat Bay pink salmon harvest of 4,850 fish was 15% below the recent average. Low prices in recent years for pink salmon suggest that the harvest of pink salmon is an incidental consequence

of the sockeye salmon fishery. No aerial surveys of the intertidal area adjacent to the mouth of Humpback Creek were flown due to the unavailability of airplanes. It is probable that the majority of the pink salmon harvested were of Situk River origin.

Manby Fisheries

The Manby Shore ocean fishery is located along the western shore of Yakutat Bay; it is probable that this fishery intercepts stocks that are destined for the Situk River and west side streams. Historical data is difficult to interpret because, prior to the mid-1980s, harvests from the ocean fishery were combined with harvests from the areas inside waters. Also, before 1950, all the Manby Shore and Manby streams' harvests were recorded with those from Yakutat Bay. It is likely that the ocean fishery for sockeye developed in 1977 since fairly consistent sockeye salmon harvests began to appear in the record at that time. Weekly fishing periods are usually adjusted according to Situk River escapement needs. The recent average number of permits fishing this area is 8 (Table 4.18). The Manby Shore was only fished for three weeks of the season in 2003.

The Manby Shore stream fisheries include the waters of Manby Stream, Sudden Stream, Spoon River, and Esker Creek (Tables 4.19 and 4.20). The fishing history of these systems is imprecise because some, or none, may be fished in any given year. Sudden and Manby Stream's produce both sockeye and coho, while the Esker Creek and Spoon River fisheries target only coho salmon. None of these systems were fished for either sockeye or coho salmon in 2003. Escapement counts are limited due to the glacial nature of most Manby area streams and no surveys of these inside waters were conducted in 2003. Escapement goals have not been formulated for the inside waters along the Manby Shore.

Yana River to Icy Bay

Although open, the Yana and Yahtse Rivers were not fished in 2003, and Jetty Creek was not open to commercial fishing.

Yakataga District

The Yakataga District opened on August 11. All waters between Cape Yakataga and a point one-half mile west of the Yahtse, including the Big River, remained closed for the year. Although open for the entire coho salmon season, the waters of the Yakataga District were not fished this year. Historical harvest and effort data for the Kaliakh River are presented in Table 4.21 and for the Tsiu River in Table 4.22.

Tsiu River

The Tsiu River is remote from processors and fish have been transported from the site in DC-3 or similar aircraft. The price for coho salmon at the dock in Yakutat was $0.43 per pound, and the calculation for the cost of flying fish in a DC-3 from the Tsiu River to Yakutat has long been $0.32 per pound. As it did in 2002, economics closed down the Tsiu River coho salmon fishery in 2003.

Two surveys of the Tsiu were flown this year. The peak survey count of 35,000 coho salmon was recorded on September 26. This exceeded the escapement goal range of 10,000 to 29,000 fish. At that point in time there were still two to three weeks left in the run, and it is probable that the final escapement count was much higher.

Table 4.1. Summary of Yakutat salmon stock biological escapement goals (BEG) and source documentation.

SPECIES	STOCK	TYPE	BEG	BEG DOCUMENT
Sockeye	Situk River	Weir-Total Count	30,000-70,000	ADFG-RIR No. 1J95-22
Sockeye	Akwe River	Aerial Survey Index	600-1,500	ADFG-RIR No. 1J95-16
Sockeye	East Alsek River	Aerial Survey Index	13,000-26,000	SPEC-PUB No. 03-04
Sockeye	Italio River	Aerial Survey Index	Not Established	
Sockeye	Lost River	Aerial Survey Index	1,000-2,300	ADFG-RIR No. 1J95-16
Sockeye	Klukshu River	Weir-Total Count	7,500-15,000	ADFG-RIR No. 1J00-24
Chinook	Klukshu River	Weir-Total Count	1,100-2,300	ADFG-F. Man. No. 98-2
Chinook	Situk River	Weir-Total Count	450-1,050	SPEC-PUB No. 03-01
Pink	Situk-Even Year	Weir	42,000-105,000	ADFG-RIR NO. 1J95-08
Pink	Situk-Odd Year	Weir	54,000-200,000	ADFG-RIR NO. 1J95-08
Pink	Humpy Cr. Even	Aerial Survey Index	3,300-8,000	ADFG-RIR NO. 1J95-08
Pink	Humpy Cr. Odd	Aerial Survey Index	7,000-18,000	ADFG-RIR NO. 1J95-08
Coho	E. Alsek-Doame	Aerial Survey Index	2,500-8,500	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Akwe River	Aerial Survey Index	1,800-5,000	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Italio River	Aerial Survey Index	1,400-3,600	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Situk River	Aerial Survey Index	3,300-9,800	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Lost River	Aerial Survey Index	2,200-6,500	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Kaliakh River	Aerial Survey Index	4,000-14,000	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14
Coho	Tsiu/Tsivat	Aerial Survey Index	10,00-29,000	ADFG-RIR No. 1J94-14

Table 4.2. Total salmon harvest by species in the Yakutat area set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003.

Week	Ending Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
23	6/07	54	242	0	0	0	296
24	6/14	717	3,802	3	1	15	4,538
25	6/21	518	13,782	12	1	4	14,317
26	6/28	727	9,763	29	9	9	10,537
27	7/05	839	23,048	13	97	6	24,003
28	7/12	626	32,471	24	1,883	11	35.015
29	7/19	270	28,279	55	4,884	3	33,491
30	7/26	77	16,386	159	16,200	9	32,831
31	8/02	12	10,836	27	6,761	12	17,648
32	8/09	2	12,480	20	4,935	47	17,484
33	8/16	0	2,172	97	2,148	68	4,485
34	8/23	3	366	875	4,675	33	5,952
35	8/30	1	758	4,983	6,353	276	12,371
36	9/06	0	45	7,887	471	29	8,432
37	9/13	1	9	15,342	0	15	15,367
38	9/20	0	2	17,520	0	0	17,520
39	9/27	0	0	14,448	0	0	14,448
40	10/04	0	0	8,209	0	3	8,209
41	10/11	0	0	3,785	0	0	3,785
42	10/18	0	0	770	0	2	772
43	10/24	0	0	85	0	0	85
Totals		3,847	154,441	74,343	48,418	542	281,591

Table 4.3. Ten-year comparison of Yakutat area setnet effort and salmon harvest.

Year	Active Permits	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1993	158	1,310	345,997	237,549	9,909	4,065	598,830
1994	151	3,897	206,533	343,751	12,324	4,216	570,721
1995	148	9,371	153,686	297,901	54,038	2,585	517,581
1996	140	4,859	209,029	227,611	31,295	1,803	474,591
1997	142	3,264	109,988	322,720	93,658	808	530,438
1998	144	2,804	77,174	197,663	86,066	1,351	365,058
1999	129	5,105	128,743	187,052	29,554	928	351,382
2000	125	2,460	99,182	170,948	64,349	1,185	338,124
2001	115	2,633	141,534	205,265	32,230	406	328.068
2002	88	2,510	112,656	200,888	15,590	204	331,848
1993-2002 Avg.	134	3,821	158,452	239,135	42,901	1,755	442,064
2003	104	3,847	154,441	74,343	48,418	542	281,591
2003	-22%	+0.5%	-2.5%	-69%	+13%	-69%	-36%

*Deviation from 10-year average.

Table 4.4. Average earnings from setnet fishing, Yakutat area, 1975-2003.

Year	Yakutat Setnet Income	Active Setnet Permits	Aver. Earning Per Permit	Previous 10-Year-Aver. Income
1975	$ 713,860	104	$6,864	-
1976	1,214,550	125	9,716	-
1977	2,065,055	130	15,808	-
1978	2,669,791	151	17,681	-
1979	3,239,000	166	19,512	-
1980	1,929,752	150	12,865	-
1981	2,333,300	152	15,351	-
1982	2,084,140	149	13,988	-
1983	1,355,470	131	10,347	-
1984	2,375,790	137	17, 342	-
1985	3,010,580	149	20,225	$13,944
1986	1,981,807	153	12,953	15,283
1987	5,077,589	155	32,759	15,607
1988	8,944,228	160	55,901	17,302
1989	4,174,510	164	25,454	21,124
1990	4,493,681	161	27,911	22,018
1991	2,248,558	162	13,880	23,223
1992	5,238,058	165	31,745	23,076
1993	2,916,782	158	18,461	23,852
1994	3,331,851	151	22,065	25,663
1995	2,968,274	148	20,055	26,135
1996	2,375,047	140	16,925	26,118
1997	2,975,854	142	20,957	26,516
1998	1,350,752	144	9,380	25,335
1999	1,960,794	129	15,200	24,306
2000	1,478,049	125	11,824	23,171
2001	1,130,969	115	9,830	18,044
2002	747,218	88	8,491	17,636
2003	1,135,551	104	10,919	15,319

Table 4.5. Harvest of salmon in the Yakutat area setnet fishery by fishing area, 2003.

Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Alsek	942	39,755	47	0	0	40,744
East		2,617	1	0	22	2,650
Akwe	304	8,518	0	1	0	8,823
Italio	Closed					
Middle Italio		*	*	*	*	*
Old Italio		*	*	*	*	*
Dangerous		*	*	*	*	*
Situk	2,342	84,248	72,183	43,568	454	202,795
Lost	0	0	1,112	0	0	1,112
Yakutat Bay	238	14,358	578	4,834	63	20,071
Manby Shore	21	2,725	294	14	3	3,057
Manby Stream	Not Fished					
Spoon	Not Fished					
Sudden	Not Fished					
Esker	Not Fished					
Yahtse	Not Fished					
Yana	Not Fished					
Jetty Creek	Not Fished					
Big River	Not Fished					
Kaliakh	Not Fished					
Tsiu	Not Fished					
Tashalich	Not Fished					
Kiklukh	Not Fished					
Totals	3,847	154,441	74,343	48,418	542	281,591

*Fewer than 3 permits, all catch figures are confidential.

Table 4.6. Harvest of salmon in the Alsek River set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003 and 5-year-catch comparison.

Week	Ending Date	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
23	6/07	9	54	242	0	0	0	296	1.0
24	6/14	11	658	2,005	0	0	0	2,663	3.0
25	6/21	12	164	4,309	0	0	0	4,473	3.0
26	6/28	11	59	1,578	0	0	0	2,120	2.0
27	7/05	9	3	6,592	0	0	0	6,595	3.0
28	7/12	11	4	3,200	0	0	0	3,204	3.0
29	7/19	9	0	2,796	0	0	0	2,796	3.0
30	7/26	8	0	4,306	0	0	0	4,306	3.0
31	8/02	9	0	5,756	13	0	0	5,769	3.0
32	8/09	6	0	7,405	0	0	0	7,405	3.0
33-43	8/16	4	0	1,530	34	0	0	1,564	33.0
Totals		15	942	39,755	47	0	0	40,744	66

5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	27	550	15,008	4,924	1	145	20,628	41.0
1999	20	508	11,433	5,660	0	112	17,713	43.0
2000	14	677	9,522	5,103	5	130	15,437	37.0
2001	14	541	13,995	2,909	8	17	17,470	50.0
2002	16	700	16,918	9,525	0	1	27,144	73.0
1997-2001 Average	18	595	13,375	5,624	3	81	19,668	49.0
2003	15	942	39,755	47	0	0	40,744	66.0
*Deviation 2003	-17%	+58%	+197%	-99%			+107%	+34%

*Deviation from 5-year average.

Table 4.7. Klukshu River Weir escapement, 1976-2003.

Year	Chinook[a]	Sockeye[b]	Coho
1976	1,278	11,691	1,572
1977	3,144	26,791	2,758
1978	2,976	26,867	30
1979	4,405	12,308	175
1980	2,637	11,739	704
1981	2,113	20,323	1,170
1982	2,369	33,699	189
1983	2,537	20,492	303
1984	1,672	12,727	1,402
1985	1,458	18,620	350
1986	2,708	24,880	62
1987	2,616	10,504	202
1988	2,037	9,341	2,774
1989	2,456	23,542	2,219
1990	1,915	25,995	315
1991	2,489	18,977	8,540
1992	1,366	20,215	1,145
1993	3,302	16,740	788
1994	3,735	15,038	1,232
1995	5,678	22,202	3,650
1996	3,602	8,317	3,465
1997	2,757	11,012	307
1998	1,347	13,580	1,961
1999	2,190	5,069	2,371
2000	1,365	5,551	4,832
2001	1,825	10,290	748
2002	2,240	25,711	9,921
1993-2002 Average	2,804	13,351	2,928
2003	1,671	32,120	3,689

[a] Chinook salmon escapement goal range is 1,100 to 2,300 fish.
[b] Sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 7,500 to 15,000 fish.

Table 4.8. Harvest of salmon in the East River set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Week	Ending Date	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
26-31	Closed								
32	8/09	6	0	2,417	0	0	8	2,425	3.0
33	8/16	3	0	200	1	0	14	215	3.0
34-43	Not Fished		0	0	0	0	0	0	27.0
Totals		8	0	2,617	1	0	22	2,640	33.0

5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1994	66	37	99,848	18,736	36	3,661	122,318	74.0
1995	42	134	11,772	8,914	21	1,501	22,342	26.0
1996	66	111	55,025	3,538	43	1,143	59,860	28.0
1997	49	28	12,612	3,579	31	338	16,588	38.0
1998	25	3	5,802	2,163	0	891	8,859	13.0
1999	Closed							
2000	Closed							
2001	Closed							
2002			10	244				
1994-1998 Average	50	39	23,134	4,647	16	942	28,746	36.0
2003	8	0	2,617	1	0	22	2,640	33.0
*Deviation 2003	-74%		-89%	-99%		-98%	-91%	-8%

*Deviation from 5-year average.

Table 4.9. East River return-per-spawner, 1975-2003.

Year	Total Return	Parent-Year Escapement	Return Per Spawner	Rank
1975	44,530	12,000	3.71	10
1976	79,816	10,000	7.98	1
1977	61,309	15,000	4.08	8
1978	56,003	35,000	1.60	20
1979	81,262	22,000	3.69	11
1980	66,530	50,000	1.33	22
1981	82,365	40,000	2.06	17
1982	177,785	25,000	7.11	3
1983	147,204	30,000	4.91	6
1984	68,023	18,000	3.78	9
1985	245,851	35,000	7.02	4
1986	120,355	80,000	1.50	21
1987	167,723	65,000	2.58	15
1988	99,483	29,000	3.43	12
1989	175,516	60,000	2.93	14
1990	203,378	44,000	4.62	7
1991	75,334	34,000	2.22	16
1992	187,300	38,000	4.93	5
1993	234,207	30,000	7.81	2
1994	131,848	42,000	3.14	13
1995	39,772	30,000	1.32	23
1996	83,025	43,000	1.96	18
1997	40,612	45,000	.90	25
1998	38,902	32,400	1.20	24
1999	19,500	28,000	.70	27
2000	21,000	28,000	.75	26
2001	17,000	28,000	.61	28
2002	14,200	30,400	.47	29
2003	33,617	19,500	1.72	19

Average return per spawner since 1975: 3.11:1.

Table 4.10. Harvest of salmon in the Akwe River set gillnet fishery, 2003 and 5-year-catch comparison.

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	7	10	2,439	8,873	1	7	11,330	31.5
1999	5	73	3,648	4,647	1	2	7,611	41.5
2000	14	159	21,129	5,162	2	52	26,504	36.0
2001	12	294	17,294	90	1	1	17,680	39.5
2002	4	170	3,754	0	1	4	3,929	61.0
1998-2002 Average	8	141	9,653	3,754	1	13	13,411	41.9
2003	8	304	8,518	0	1	0	8,831	50.0
*Deviation 2003		+116%	-12%	-100%		-100%	-34%	+19%

*Deviation from 5-year average.

Table 4.11. Harvest of salmon in the Dangerous River set gillnet fishery, 2003 and 5-year-catch comparison.

5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	14	6	6,800	246	8	2	7,062	55.0
1999	4	7	7,713	3	0	0	7,723	55.0
2000	13	15	5,570	305	44	12	5,946	41.5
2001	5	5	5,740	0	0	0	5,745	61.0
2002	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
1997 -2001 Average	9	11	6,723	122	21	5	6,891	54.2
2003	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

* Fewer than three permits, all catch figures are confidential

Table 4.12. Harvest of salmon in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet set gillnet fishery, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Week	Ending Date	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
25	6/21	43	297	5,448	5	1	0	5,751	2.5
26	6/28	43	442	5,808	22	6	4	6,282	2.5
27	7/05	47	687	9,855	7	64	0	10,613	5.75
28	7/12	51	571	23,931	19	1,597	10	26,128	7.0
29	7/19	57	252	21,467	12	4,096	0	25,827	7.0
30	7/26	44	77	10,389	147	15,697	5	26,315	7.0
31	8/02	27	10	4,391	7	5,528	9	9,945	7.0
32	8/09	17	2	1,467	12	3,462	27	4,970	4.5
33	8/16	17	0	317	84	1,788	48	2,237	3.0
34	8/23	21	2	362	861	4,540	27	2,429	3.0
35	8/29	48	1	758	4,963	6,318	276	12,316	3.0
36	9/06	55	0	45	7,883	471	29	8,428	3.0
37	9/13	53	1	8	15,301	0	14	15,316	3.0
38	9/20	59	0	2	16,982	0	0	16,984	5.0
39	9/27	56	0	0	13,573	0	0	13,573	5.0
40	10/04	51	0	0	7,770	0	3	7,773	5.0
41	10/11	26	0	0	3,556	0	0	3,556	5.0
42-43	10/25	10	0	0	855	0	2	840	10.0
Totals		81	2,342	84,248	2,183	43,568	454	202,795	88.25

5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	97	2,101	37,869	81,710	76,608	185	198,473	62.5
1999	99	3,810	61,500	103,049	27,018	396	195,773	66.5
2000	83	1,318	34,551	93,674	51,307	353	181,203	47.0
2001	82	1,087	62,192	164,669	28,567	188	256,703	90.5
2002	69	1,078	71,015	189,789	14,037	34	275,953	96.75
1998-2002 Average	86	1,879	53,425	126,578	39,507	231	221,621	72.65
2003	81	2,342	84,248	72,183	43,568	454	202,795	88.25
*Deviation 2003	-6%	+25%	+58%	-43%	+10%	+97%	-9%	+21%

*Deviation from 5-year average.

Table 4.13. Exvessel value of Situk-Ahrnklin set gillnet fishery relative to the total Yakutat area exvessel set gillnet fishery, 1975 -2003.

Year	Yakutat Setnet Income	Situk Setnet Income	Percent Value of Situk
1975	$ 713,860	$ 256,760	36%
1976	1,214,550	485,680	40%
1977	2,065,055	890,630	43%
1978	2,669,791	767,690	29%
1979	3,239,000	715,280	22%
1980	1,929,752	419,070	22%
1981	2,333,300	612,050	26%
1982	2,084,140	372,000	18%
1983	1,355,470	205,750	15%
1984	2,375,790	575,120	24%
1985	3,010,580	524,560	17%
1986	1,981,807	180,677	9%
1987	5,077,589	1,248,984	25%
1988	8,944,228	2,601,441	29%
1989	4,174,510	1,244,788	30%
1990	4,493,681	1,189,260	26%
1991	2,248,558	1,183,752	53%
1992	5,238,058	2,063,143	39%
1993	2,916,782	1,192,148	41%
1994	3,331,851	1,686,803	51%
1995	2,968,274	1,716,842	58%
1996	2,375,047	1,351,005	57%
1997	2,975,854	1,687,084	57%
1998	1,350,752	652,129	48%
1999	1,960,794	1,097,412	56%
2000	1,487,207	740,165	50%
2001	1,130,969	705,325	62%
2002	745,218	601,704	80%
1975-2002 Average	2,728,303	953,110	35%
2003	1,135,551	782,143	69%
*Deviation 2003	-58%	-18%	+97%

*Deviation from average.

Table 4.14. Dollar value of salmon harvest in the Situk-Ahrnklin set gillnet fishery, 1975-2003.

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1975	$ 7,000	$ 128,000	$ 114,560	$ 7,000	$ 4	$ 256,760
1976	24,000	345,300	108,000	8,300	80	485,680
1977	21,000	588,560	255,530	25,230	310	890,630
1978	10,000	333,150	417,270	7,140	126	767,690
1979	29,560	430,350	223,950	31,200	220	715,280
1980	22,540	155,130	218,190	23,100	106	419,070
1981	25,000	237,710	308,270	40,440	625	612,050
1982	5,610	170,940	191,240	3,800	410	372,000
1983	4,830	101,000	96,300	3,300	315	205,750
1984	12,310	50,740	498,530	10,640	2,400	575,120
1985	11,330	122,770	385,000	4,750	710	524,560
1986	3,276	59,771	116,648	688	294	180,677
1987	23,908	755,662	454,035	9,682	5,394	1,248,984
1988	10,350	1,018,060	1,522,176	40,223	10,632	2,601,441
1989	No Sale	899,505	283,090	58,445	3,748	1,244,788
1990	No Sale	816,615	352,937	18,638	1,070	1,189,260
1991	12,071	651,684	518,138	1,399	460	1,183,752
1992	29,404	929,241	1,093,096	9,816	1,586	2,063,143
1993	11,553	503,262	669,648	6,479	1,206	1,192,148
1994	27,336	309,766	1,342,174	7,102	425	1,686,803
1995	168,055	432,684	1,078,470	36,913	720	1,716,842
1996	58,024	578,758	703,278	10,342	603	1,351,005
1997	31,317	166,254	1,436,891	52,282	340	1,687,084
1998	24,845	196,850	390,977	39,163	93	652,129
1999	81,060	488,915	515,785	10,738	474	1,096,972
2000	28,905	222,598	464,086	22,852	584	740,165
2001	17,179	241,597	433,935	12,427	187	705,325
2002	4,832	180,146	413,938	2,751	38	601,704
1975 – 2001 Average	25,943	404,995	524,526	18,596	1,227	976,485
2003	27,850	441,483	293,676	18,885	249	782,143

Table 4.15. Situk Weir escapement counts, 1988-2003.

Year	Dates of Operation	Chinook[a]	Sockeye[b]	Coho[c]	Pink[d]	Chum
1988	6/7 – 8/21	885	46,404	1,694	78,754	228
1989	5/31 -8/17	637	84,383	0	288,246	0
1990	6/1 – 7/28	1,274	61,375	0	0	0
1991	6/10 7/27	1,613	67,737	0	4,168	3
1992	4/18 – 8/5	1,985	63,877	0	29,278	0
1993	6/10 – 8/5	4,091	62,110	0	16,285	0
1994	5/21 – 8/4	4,416	72,474	4	79,055	4
1995	5/10 – 8/3	8,231	42,463	4	66,273	17
1996	5/6 – 8/6	4,151	61,269	65	157,012	15
1997	5/7 – 8/8	5,001	42,051	18	466,267	35
1998	5/3 – 8/5	5,329	50,546	8	97,392	0
1999	5/9 – 8/6	2,786	61,544	2	27,586	0
2000	5/10 – 8/8	3,091	41,544	189	332,510	53
2001	5/2—8/8	696	60,330	20	121,267	13
2002	5/10-8/8	1,024	68,743	40	98,190	22
1988 to2002 Average		3,014	59,123	136	124,152	26
2003	5/8 – 8/8	2,615	89,720	1	375,333	12

[a] Chinook salmon weir counts are for large, three ocean or older, fish. The chinook salmon escapement goal range of 450-1,050 fish is for large fish.

[b] Sockeye salmon escapement goal range is 30,000 to 70,000 fish.

[c] The Situk weir is not operated through the end of the coho salmon return and is not a useful measure of escapement for this species.

[d] This odd-year pink salmon escapement goal range is 59,000 to 200,000 fish.

Note: In 1992 and from 1994 to the present, the weir has been operated by Sport Fish Division in May and early June to count emigrant steelhead

Table 4.16. Harvest of salmon in the Lost River set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Week	Ending Date	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
38-43	10/11	3	0	0	1,112	0	0	1,112	27.0

5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	6	27	1,744	10,333	1,454	11	13,569	61.0
1999-2000	Closed	To	Fishing					
2001	4	0	0	459	0	0	459	35.0
2002	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	44.5
2003	3	0	0	1,112	0	0	1,112	27.0

* Fewer than 3 permits, all catch figures are confidential

Table 4.17 Harvest of salmon in the Yakutat Bay set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Week	Ending Date	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
24	6/14	25	59	1,797	3	1	15	1,875	2.5
25	6/21	15	57	4,025	7	0	4	4,093	2.5
26	6/28	15	33	1,234	7	3	5	1,282	2.5
27	7/05	14	45	2,392	5	27	3	2,472	3.5
28	7/12	11	28	1,989	5	277	1	2,300	4.5
29	7/19	5	13	1,006	43	788	3	1,853	4.5
30	7/26	4	0	728	12	502	4	1,246	4.5
31	8/02	3	2	542	7	1,233	3	3,033	4.5
32	8/09	4	0	619	8	1,473	12	2,112	3.0
33-39	9/27	6	1	26	481	530	13	1,051	21.0
40-43	10/25	Not	Fished						12.0
Totals		33	238	14,358	578	4,834	63	24,722	65.0

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5-Year Comparison

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	29	107	6,782	973	7,992	110	15,964	63.5
1999	55	618	41,739	6,768	2,510	411	52,046	58.5
2000	44	285	24,757	3,946	12,963	628	42,579	47.5
2001	60	703	34,044	4,738	3,585	200	43,270	91.0
2002	35	548	17,899	1,201	1,552	165	21,365	93.25
1998-2002 Average	45	452	25,044	3,525	5,720	303	35,045	70.75
2003	33	238	14,358	578	4,834	63	24,722	65.0
*Deviation 2003	-27%	-47%	-43%	-84%	-15%	-81%	-29%	-8%

*Deviation from 5-year average.

Table 4.18. Harvest of salmon in the Manby Shore Ocean set gillnet fishery by fishing period, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998		*	*	*	*	*	*	61.0
1999	9	89	1,309	405	21	7	1,831	56.0
2000	10	1	2,734	80	28	8	2,851	45.0
2001	8	0	7,602	24	11	0	7,637	88.5
2002	3	14	1,449	0	0	0	1,463	75.0
1998-2002 Average	8	26	3,274	127	15	4	3,446	66.0
2003	7	21	2,725	294	14	3	3,057	58.5
Deviation 2003	-12%	-19%	-17%	+131 %	-7%	-25%	-11%	-11%

*Fewer than three permits, all catch figures are confidential.

Table 4.19. Harvest of salmon in the Manby Stream set gillnet fishery, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	3	0	125	4,189	0	0	4,314	53.5
1999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	56.5
2000	Not	Fished						42.0
2001	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	81.0
2002	Not	Fished						
2003	Not	Fished						51.0

*Fewer than three permits, all catch figures are confidential.

Table 4.20. Harvest of salmon in the combined Esker Creek, Sudden Stream, and Spoon River set gillnet fisheries, 2003, and 5-year-catch comparison.

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	4	0	534	1,883	0	0	2,417	53.5
1999	4	0	1,336	1,856	4	0	3,196	52.5
2000	4	0	905	1,065	0	2	1,972	42.0
2001	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	81.0
2002	Not	Fished						
2003	Not	Fished						51.0

*Fewer than three permits, all catch figures are confidential

Table 4.21. Harvest of salmon in the Kaliakh River, 1998 - 2003

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days[a]
1998	3	0	0	2,028	0	0	2,031	29.0
1999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	27.0
2000	Not	Fished						
2001	Not	Fished						62.125
2002	Not	Fished						60.5
2003	Not	Fished						36.0

[a] For 5-year comparison, days are for coho season only.

*Fewer than three permits, all catch figures are confidential

Table 4.22 Harvest of salmon in the Tsiu River, 1998 – 2003.

Year	Boats	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Days
1998	27	0	70	70,995	0	0	71,065	24.0
1999	31	0	3	61,480	0	0	61,483	29.0
2000	22	0	0	59,075	0	0	59,075	20.0
2001	11	0	0	31,734	14	0	31,748	51.0
2002	Not	Fished						48.5
1998-2002 Average	23	0	19	55,821	4	0	55,843	31.0
2003	Not	Fished						22.0

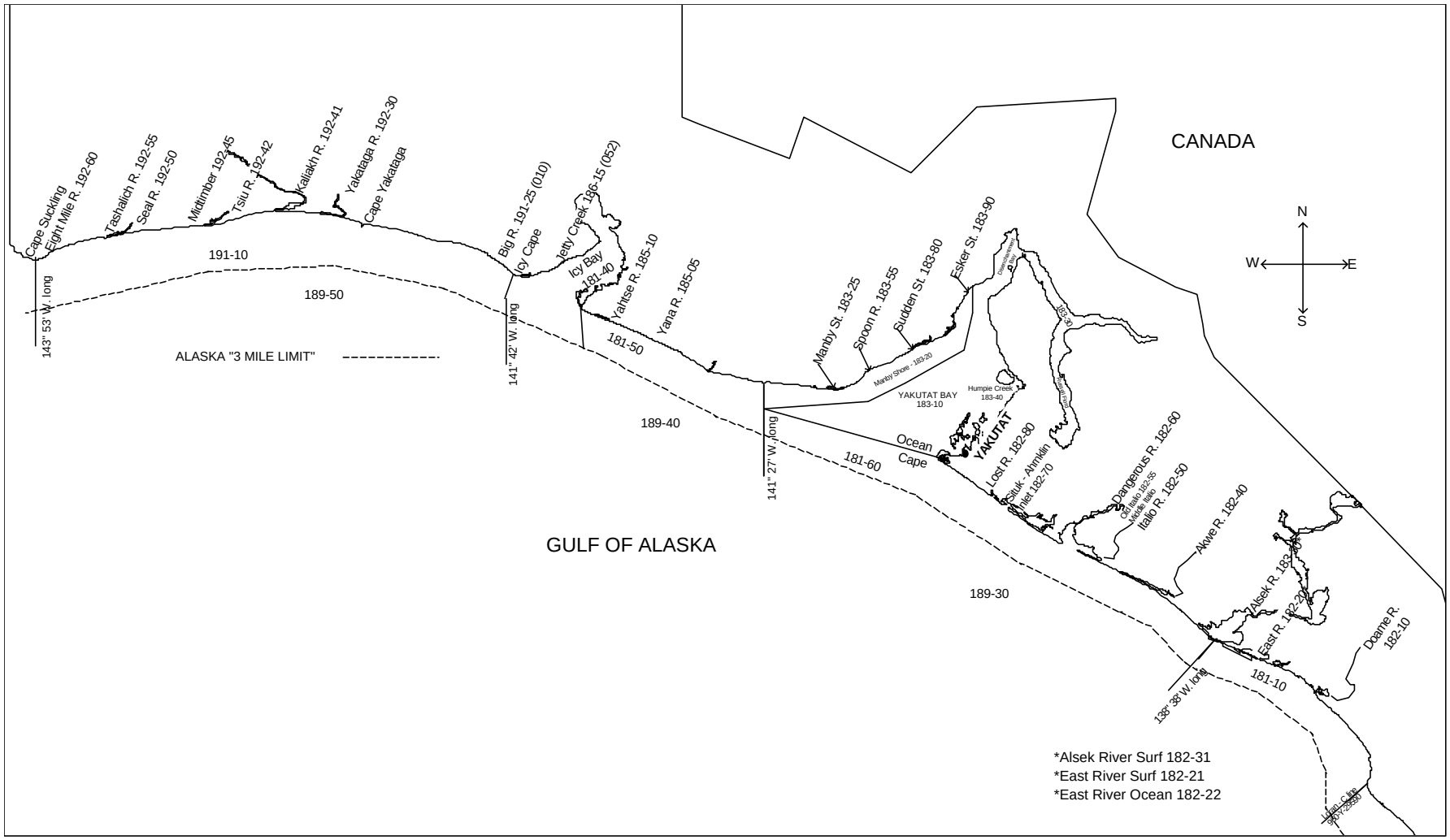

Figure 4.1. Yakutat area map - Area D.